THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIM ATIAMBIKASONI):

(a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Special forces to protect national monuments

4179. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up any special force to protect national monuments or sites under the control of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) There is no such proposal at present. Archaeological Survey of India deploys a mix of regular watch and ward staff of the ASI, private security guards and State Police personnel for security of 3667 centrally protected monuments. In addition, CISF personnel are deployed at selected monuments.

Award to drama writers from Assam by Sangeet Natak Akademy

4180. KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that not a single drama writer from the State of Assam has been awarded so far by the Sangeet Natak Akademy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the name of awardee and the work that has been recongnized?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Shri Satya Prasad Barua and Shri Arun Sharma from Assam have been awarded by the Sangeet Natak Akademi in the year 1986 and 2004 respectively for their contribution to playwriting in Assamese. Akademi Award is not based on a particular play, but on the sustained contribution of the playwright.

Important research study scheme by Dr. Kumar Suresh Singh

† 4181. SHRLALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Anthropological Survey of India had started an important research study scheme two decades ago on national level under the leadership of Dr. Kumar Suresh Singh, which was named as 'People of India';

(b) if so, details of the States whose study volumes have been published by the Anthropological Survey of India as book series after that research study;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Bihar-volume has not been published till now;

(d) if so, reasons therefor; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.